

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 02730 130921Z
ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 2730

USDA/FAS FOR G&F

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, HU
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN HARVEST SITUATION

REF: VIENNA 7024

1. AGATT AND ECONOFF MET PILASZY OF AGRIMPEX (FTO) ON
AUG 11 TO DISCUSS HARVEST RESULTS AND PROSPECTS FOR
HUNGARIAN GRAIN TRADE. FOLLOWING POINTS WERE MADE BY
PILASZY:

2. HUNGARIAN SMALL GRAIN HARVEST (WHEAT, RYE, BARLEY
AND OATS) ALMOST ALL COMPLETED. ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL
ESTIMATES YET AVAILABLE, SMALL GRAIN CROP THIS YEAR
WAS GOOD AND MAY HAVE APPROACHED LAST YEAR'S VOLUME.
QUALITY OF GRAIN, HOWEVER, WAS SOMEWHAT BELOW THAT OF
LAST YEAR BECAUSE RELATIVELY HIGH MOISTURE.

3. CORN WENT INTO GROUND ABOUT TWO WEEKS LATE AND EARLY
SPRING FREEZES RETARDED ITS DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER,
THESE NEGATIVE FACTORS HAVE NOW LARGELY BEEN OFFSET
BY RELATIVELY FAVORABLE WEATHER FOR THIS CROP --
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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 02730 130921Z

ABUNDANT RAIN IN JULY. AS RESULT CORN CROP IS NOW
DEVELOPING WELL AND WITH CONTINUING NORMAL WEATHER CROP
SHOULD COME TO BETWEEN 6.0 TO 6.5 MIL TONS.

4. BECAUSE OF INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN WHEAT AND CORN
IN ANIMAL FEEDING, HUNGARIAN WHEAT SALES FOR EXPORTS
BEYOND USUAL COMMITMENT TO CEMA PARTNERS ARE BEING

SLOWED DOWN DURING SECOND HALF 1977. BEFORE RESUMING WHEAT EXPORTS MORE WILL HAVE TO BE KNOWN ABOUT CURRENT CORN CROP. DURING FIRST HALF 1977 HUNGARY EXPORTED NEARLY .5 MIL TONS WHEAT. NO CORN EXPORTS WILL BE MADE DURING 1977 BECAUSE 1976 CROP WAS POOR. IN FACT HUNGARY NOW IN PROCESS IMPORTING 30,000 TONS AMERICAN CORN.

5. COMMENTS. PILASZY'S REMARKS SUGGEST A TOTAL GRAIN CROP DURING 1977 OF BETWEEN 12.0 AND 12.5 MIL TONS, SLIGHTLY BELOW THE ESTIMATE MADE IN REFTEL. HOWEVER, HALF OF TOTAL GRAIN (CORN) STILL ON FIELDS AND A GOOD CORN CROP MAY RAISE TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION UP TO 12.5 MIL TONS. VISUAL OBSERVATION OF CORN FIELDS REVEALS GOOD TO VERY GOOD EAR FORMATION SHOWING NO SIGNS OF THE EARLY FREEZE.

6. HUNGARY'S CY 1977 WHEAT EXPORTS MAY COME UP TO .8 TO .9 MIL TONS.
KAISER

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